

OUR LADY OF GUADALOUPE CHURCH (R.C.)
(St. Anthony of Padua - The Mortuary Chapel)
411 North Rampart Street at Conti Street (N.E. Corner)
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

HABS No. LA-1104

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Richard Koch, District Officer
Queen and Crescent Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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The present owner is the Congregation of Our Lady of Guadalupe Roman Catholic Church, who acquired it in 1918 from the Congregation of St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Church, who acquired it in 1844 from the Wardens (Marguilliers) of the St. Louis Roman Catholic Cathedral, who acquired the lot by purchase in 1825 from the City of New Orleans.

This church was designed and built by Gurlie and Guillot, local architects and contractors, for the Wardens of the St. Louis Cathedral in 1827. It underwent renovation in 1918, at the time of the transfer from St. Anthony of Padua to Our Lady of Guadalupe, but the facade was not changed. It is a matter of general knowledge that the church was much enlarged in 1952, but again the facade was left unchanged, as far as possible.

The lot which the Wardens bought from the City was convenient to the parish cemetery St. Louis No. 1. In September, 1827, the City Council passed an ordinance forbidding funerals being held in the Cathedral, because of an expressed belief that such gatherings were conducive to the spread of infection during the epidemics that afflicted the city from time to time, and directing that the Mortuary Chapel should be used for such purposes. Violation of the ordinance carried a fine of \$50. The Chapel was blessed in December of that year, and placed under the invocation of St. Anthony of Padua.

The ordinance was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana in 1844, and the chapel was given the status of a parish church with the name of St. Anthony of Padua Church. Because the majority of the parishioners spoke Italian, it was generally called the Italian Church. Later, because of a shift in population, Spanish became the prevalent language, the name was changed to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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Descriptive Data

The building is brick stuccoed with slate roof and belfry, and open loggia on front.